

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A polychloroprene latex comprising a homopolymer of chloroprene or a copolymer of a chloroprene monomer with a monomer copolymerizable with chloroprene, characterized in that the chloroprene homopolymer or copolymer is one obtained by emulsion polymerization in the presence of from 0.5 to 15 parts by mass of a nonionic emulsifier having the formula (1) and from 0.05 to 2 parts by mass of an anionic emulsifier having the formula (2), per 100 parts by mass of the whole monomer:



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R_1

wherein R is a substituent containing at least one benzene ring and/or naphthalene ring, n is from 1 to 200, and R_1 is hydrogen or a C_{1-5} alkyl group,



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R_1

wherein R is a substituent containing at least one benzene ring and/or naphthalene ring, n is from 1 to 200, R_1 is hydrogen or a C_{1-5} alkyl group, and M is a monovalent cation.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The polychloroprene latex according to Claim 1, wherein the anionic emulsifier is an aromatic sulfonic acid/formaline condensate, which is present in an amount of from 0.05 to 1 to 0.5 part by mass, per 100 parts by mass of the whole monomer.

Claim 3 (Original): The polychloroprene latex according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the nonionic emulsifier having the formula (1) comprises two types of nonionic emulsifiers having HLB values being apart by at least 2 from each other.

Claim 4 (Original): The polychloroprene latex according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the nonionic emulsifier having the formula (1) comprises a nonionic emulsifier having a HLB value of at least 9 and less than 16, and a nonionic emulsifier having a HLB value of at least 16 and having no aromatic ring.

Claim 5 (Original): The polychloroprene latex according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein substituent R in the nonionic emulsifier having the formula (1) contains at least one styrene structure.

Claim 6 (Original): The polychloroprene latex according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, wherein the monomer copolymerizable with chloroprene is an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid, which is contained in an amount of from 0.3 to 10 parts by mass, per 100 parts by mass of the copolymer.

Claim 7 (Original): The polychloroprene latex according to Claim 6, wherein the ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid is methacrylic acid, acrylic acid or a mixture thereof.

Claim 8 (Original): The polychloroprene latex according to any one of Claims 1 to 7, which has a gel content of at most 60 mass%.

Claim 9 (Original): An aqueous adhesive composition obtained by adding a tackifier resin to the polychloroprene latex as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 8.

Claim 10 (Original): An aqueous adhesive composition obtained by adding a tackifier resin and a metal oxide to the polychloroprene latex as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 8.

Claim 11 (Original): A two-part aqueous adhesive composition which is a combination of a main agent containing as the main component the polychloroprene latex as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 8, and a curing agent.

Claim 12 (Original): The two-part aqueous adhesive composition according to Claim 11, wherein the main agent contains a metal oxide.

Claim 13 (Original): The two-part aqueous adhesive composition according to Claim 11 or 12, wherein the curing agent is a water-dispersible isocyanate compound.

Claim 14 (Original): A process for producing a polychloroprene latex, characterized by emulsion-polymerizing chloroprene, or chloroprene and a monomer copolymerizable with chloroprene, in the presence of from 0.5 to 15 parts by mass of a nonionic emulsifier having the formula (1) and from 0.05 to 2 parts by mass of an anionic emulsifier having the formula (2), per 100 parts by mass of the whole monomer:

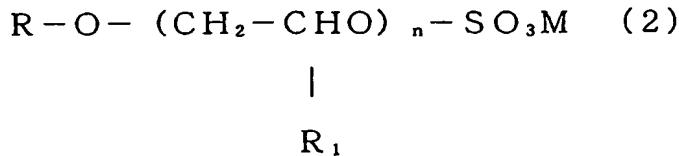


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R,

wherein R is a substituent containing at least one benzene ring and/or naphthalene ring, n is from 1 to 200,

and R₁ is hydrogen or a C₁₋₅ alkyl group,



wherein R is a substituent containing at least one benzene ring and/or naphthalene ring, n is from 1 to 200, R₁ is hydrogen or a C₁₋₅ alkyl group, and M is a monovalent cation.